

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 1, lines 27 and 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The firm ~~Endress + Hauser®~~ ENDRESS + HAUSER® manufactures and sells a large number of such field devices.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 2, line 1 and ends on line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Field devices in modern manufacturing plants are frequently connected with superordinated units, e.g. control systems or control units, via a field bus system (~~Profibus®, Foundation®-fieldbus, HART®, etc.~~) (PROFIBUS®, FOUNDATION®-fieldbus, HART®, etc.). These superordinated units serve for process control, process visualization, process monitoring, as well as for operating and monitoring of the field devices. From the superordinated units, communication connections to further company networks are also possible.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 3, lines 15 and 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A control strategy can be produced e.g. with the FieldCare® FieldCare® system of the firm ~~Endress + Hauser~~ Endress + Hauser and loaded into the field devices.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 3, line 23 and ends on line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For example, in the case of the ~~Gentum~~ CENTUM® CS 1000 process control system of Yokogawa, critical function blocks, which run e.g. in field devices, can only be changed via input of two pass words of different persons.

Please replace the second paragraph which appears on page 3, line 7 and ends on line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For preventing intrusions from outside the company, so-called firewalls are used. Besides intrusions from outside of the company, likewise dangerous are unauthorized intrusions from within a company. In the case of company-internal intrusions, e.g. parameters can be changed in the field devices, or the entire control strategy can be changed. ~~Thus~~ This can lead to undesired changes in the production process.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 3, line 27 and ends on page 4, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case of the firm ~~Endress + Hauser~~ Endress + Hauser, safety protection against unauthorized changing of parameters in field devices is provided by a locking. The person who wants to make changes must input a code at the field device, before changes in the field device become possible.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 5, line 1 and ends on page 5, with line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a simple manner, the individual identifier can be the serial number of the field device. In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the individual identifier can be a key in the device firmware of the field device.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 5, the last line, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of a process automation network.